SOC 101.03
INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGY

Boğaziçi University
2025 - 2026 (Fall)

Instructor: Assist. Prof. Merve Kütük-Kuriş
E-mail: merve.kkutuk@bogazici.edu.tr
Class Time: Monday, 15.00-17.00; Wednesday, 15.00-16.00
Location: Monday NH 105; Wednesday NH 101
Office Hours: By appointment. Please send me an e-mail to request an online or in-person meeting. (Refer to the e-mailing policy below)
Room: SH 202

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is society? How can we understand it? What is the role of the individual in society, and how does society impact individual lives? This course provides an introduction to the field of sociology by exploring key concepts, foundational theories, and major debates within the discipline. The goal is for students to develop the ability to think beyond their personal lives or 'common sense' and to connect individual experiences with broader social structures. The course covers classical theoretical traditions of Durkheim, Marx and Weber, as well as their contemporary heirs such as Bourdieu, Tilly, Touraine and Berger. Students will gain a critical sociological lens by examining social inequalities based on class, gender, race and ethnicity. To gain a deeper understanding of the tension between the individual and social, students will also study key social institutions such as politics, family and religion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify key concepts and major theories in the study of societies and social life
- Understand major systems of inequality within society
- Grasp how social structures shape individual behaviour and understand the effects of deviating from social norms.
- Use a sociological perspective to interpret contemporary social issues

TEACHING ARRANGEMENTS

The teaching comprises of **three-hour weekly lecture**. Given the large class size, student participation might seem daunting. However, I strongly encourage students to engage in discussions by asking questions, sharing examples or making thoughtful comments. To enhance student involvement, I employ various strategies such as presenting video clips from documentaries or short newspaper articles that incorporate current global events.

It is crucial for students to complete the assigned readings before attending lectures to maximize their learning experience. The content of the readings and lectures might not always overlap completely. Therefore, I use lectures to provide frameworks for understanding and integrating the readings with the lecture material. This underscores the importance of both reading and attending classes.

I will be actively using **"Moodle"** for announcements and accessing course documents such as the syllabus and readings. It is the students' responsibility to regularly visit the course's Moodle page.

TEXTBOOK AND OTHER COURSE MATERIALS

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

Students must engage with the relevant chapters of the introductory textbook, which provides a comprehensive and accessible foundation that complements lecture content. In addition, I will upload supplementary weekly readings, as well as links to selected documentaries, podcasts and op-eds to further deepen students' understanding. These materials encompass both canonical sociological texts and works that critically engage with contemporary debates in the field.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Assessment is based on a midterm exam and a final exam.

1- Midterm Exam (50%)

Midterm exam lasts for 60 minutes, and students are required to answer around 40 multiple-choice questions.

2- Final Exam (50%)

Final exam lasts for 60 minutes, and students are required to answer around 40 multiple-choice questions. Final exam is not cumulative, only covers the readings and lecture material after the midterm.

EMAIL POLICY

The best way to contact me is via email. I will respond to your email within two business days, excluding weekends and holidays. You must use your official Boğaziçi email and ensure "SOC 101" is at the beginning of your subject line. Please read the syllabus carefully before asking a general question about the course.

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

Students are expected to arrive on time for class.

Laptops (or tablets) should be used **for notes only**. Other activities such as emailing, checking social media, shopping, or web surfing will result in the student being asked to turn off the laptop. The use of cell phones is not permitted in the class. Please **turn OFF** and put away your phones.

Videotaping or recording lectures is prohibited without written permission from the instructor.

Exposure to diverse and sometimes contested ideas and viewpoints is a crucial part of university education. Many sociology courses often involve content that might challenge

deeply-held beliefs. Critical discussion and debate are welcome, but students must maintain respect and avoid personal attacks to foster an environment of mutual growth and dialogue. Students must adhere to the Code of Student Conduct available here: https://bogazici.edu.tr/en_US/Content/About_BU/Governance/Councils_Boards_and_Committees/Ethics_Committees/Student_Rights_and_Responsibilities

IMPORTANT DATES & GRADING SCALE

Midterm: Midterm exam will be scheduled around Week 7 or Week 8.

Final Exam: The final exam date will be announced by the Registrar's Office during the semester.

Very Good	Good	Satisfactory	Pass	Fail
AA 90 - 100	BA 85 - 89	CB 75 - 79	DC 60 - 69	F 49 or below
	BB 80 - 84	CC 70 - 74	DD 50 - 59	

** Please NOTE that changes may be made to this syllabus and students will be notified in advance about these changes.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

PART I: INTRODUCTION TO SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Week 1 (22 & 24 Sept): The Sociological Imagination

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. 'Ch 1: What is Sociology?', 'Ch 2: Asking and Answering Sociological Questions' in *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Mills, C. Wright. 2000. 'The Promise' in *The Sociological Imagination.* Oxford University Press.

Week 2 (29 Sept & 1 Oct): Foundations: Emile Durkheim & Karl Marx

- Hughes, John A., Wes W. Sharrock and Peter J. Martin. 2003. *Understanding Classical Sociology: Marx, Weber, Durkheim*. London: SAGE Publications, Chapter 4 & 2. (available at the library: https://collections.library.bogazici.edu.tr/record=b1000617)

Week 3 (6 & 8 Oct): Foundations: Max Weber

- Hughes, John A., Wes W. Sharrock and Peter J. Martin. 2003. *Understanding Classical Sociology: Marx, Weber, Durkheim*. London: SAGE Publications, Chapter 3. (available at the library: https://collections.library.bogazici.edu.tr/record=b1000617)

- Documentary: Kenner, Robert. 2009. *Food Inc.* https://www.lawndalehs.org/apps/video/watch.jsp?v=50533

PART II: THE INDIVIDUAL IN SOCIETY

Week 4 (13 & 15 Oct): Culture

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. 'Ch 3: Culture and Society' in *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Hall, Stuart. 2013. 'Cultural Identity and Diaspora' in *Colonial Discourse and Post-colonial Theory: A Reader*. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman ed. London: Routledge.

Week 5 (20 & 22 Oct): Socialization

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. 'Ch 4: Socialization and the Life Course', 'Ch 5: Social Interaction and Everyday Life in the Age of the Internet' in *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Sections from the Documentary: Almond, Paul and Michael Apted. 2019. *The Up!* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0NFVmXNrYEM&list=PLmttTbVBZmTkwCRBjGmrf_l04eebE-TVE&index=8

PART II: UNPACKING SOCIAL INEQUALITIES

Week 6 (27 Oct): Social Stratification and Class (NO CLASS on Wednesday)

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. 'Ch 8: Stratification, Class and Inequality' in *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.

PLEASE NOTE: No class on Wednesday, October 29th (Republic Day holiday).

Week 7 (3 & 5 Nov): Social Stratification and Class (continues)

- Bourdieu, Pierre. 1986. 'The Forms of Capital.' In *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*. J.G. Richardson (ed.) New York: Greenwood Press.
- Moore, Michael. 2007. Sicko. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbEQ7acb0IE

Week 8 (10 & 12 Nov): Gender and Sexuality

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. 'Ch 10: Gender Inequality' in *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- BBC. 2017. 'Female Stars Call on BBC "to sort gender pay gap now".' https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-40696402

Week 9 (17 & 19 Nov): Gender and Sexuality (continues)

- Kandiyoti, Deniz. 1987. 'Emancipated but Unliberated? Reflections on the Turkish Case.' *Feminist Studies* 13 (2): 317-338.

- Altınay, Ayşe Gül and Yeşim Arat. 2009. *Violence Against Women in Turkey: A Nationwide Survey*. Istanbul: Punto, 33-62.
- Aljazeera. People & Power. 2022. 'Femicide Detectives.' https://www.aljazeera.com/video/people-power/2022/7/28/the-femicide-detectives

PLEASE NOTE: The midterm exam is scheduled for November 21 at 5:00pm. You are responsible for readings up until Week 8.

Week 10 (24 & 26 Nov): Race and Ethnicity

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. 'Ch 11: Race, Ethnicity and Racism' in *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Du Bois, W.E.B. 1903. 'Of Our Spiritual Strivings' in *The Souls of Black Folk*. https://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/408/pg408-images.html#chap01
- Fanon, Frantz. 1967 [2004]. 'On Violence' in *Wretched of the Earth*. Richard Philcox (trans.) New York: Grove Press.

PART III: INSTITUTIONS

Week 11 (1 & 3 Dec): Power, Politics and the Modern State

- Tony Bilton et al. 1996. *Introductory Sociology.* London: Macmillan, Chapter 6.

Week 12 (8 & 10 Dec): Social Movements

- Della Porta, Donatella and Mario Diani. 2006. 'Ch 2: Social Changes and Social Movements' in *Social Movements: An Introduction.* London: Blackwell Publishing.
- Castells, Manuel. 2012. 'Opening: Networking Minds, Creating Meaning, Contesting Power' & 'Changing the World in the Network Society' in *Networks of Outrage and Hope: Social Movements in the Internet Age.* Malden, MA: Polity Press.
- Documentary: Noujaim, Jehane. 2013. *The Square.* https://archive.org/details/the-square-2013-subbed

Week 13 (15 & 17 Dec): Religion

- Giddens, Anthony et al. 2021. 'Ch 17: Religion in Modern Society' in *Introduction to Sociology.* 12th Seagull Edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Co.
- Özyürek, Esra. *Being German, Becoming Muslim: Race, Religion, and Conversion in the New Europe.* Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, Chapter 2.